

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01935 241148Z

72

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 H-01

INR-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 /042 W

----- 054850

R 241100Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3546

AMEMBASSY SANAA

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LIMDIS

BEIRUT FOR RCAA DWOR AND RTDO LEFEAVER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ BEXP, EAIR, BTRA, SY

SUBJ: DESIRE OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REP TO VISIT SYRIA

1. MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REP ROBERT FOX CALLED EMBASSY MAY 19, ASKED TO SPEAK TO AMBASSADOR, BUT WITH LATTER UNAVAILABLE, SPOKE TO ECONOFF WRIGHT. FOX ASKED IF WE THOUGHT HE COULD RETURN TO SYRIA AFTER HIS PROBLEMS LAST JULY. ECONOFF SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY FOX SHOULD NOT RETURN. FOX NOTED THAT DOUGLAS BEIRUT REP GEORGE POHLE WOULD BE ON LEAVE THIS SUMMER, DOUGLAS WAS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR WITH OTHER THAN DIRECTLY AIRCRAFT-RELATED PRODUCT LINES. IF DOUGLAS DID PARTICIPATE, FOX WOULD BE IN CHARGE AND THUS WOULD NEED TO TRAVEL FREQUENTLY TO DAMASCUS.

2. WHILE FOX SAID DOUGLAS WOULD NOT BE PUSHING AIRCRAFT, WE ARE AWARE FROM VISIT OF POHLE TWOMONTHS AGO THAT DOUGLAS IS PRESENTING DC-9 PROPOSAL TO SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES (SAA) AS REPLACEMENT FOR SAA SUPERCARAVELLES (AND PRESUMABLY AS INTERNAL SHORTHHAUL AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF LONGER RANGE, NEWLY PURCHASED BOEING 727'S AND 747SP'S).

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3. WE BELIEVE FOX'S PROBLEMS LAST JULY STEMMED DIRECTLY
FROM INTENSE COMPETITION FOR WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT SALE TO
SAA. THAT COMPETITION ENDED WITH CONTRACT WITH BOEING.
WE THEREFORE RECOMMEN RCAA DWOR (AFTER COORDINATION WITH
LEFEAVER AND GNEHM) ADVISE FOX THAT WE HAVE NO REASON TO
BELIEVE THAT HE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BACK INTO SYRIA. IF
FOX DOES PLAN TRIP TO DAMASCUS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CALL
FROM HIM OUTLINE TRAVEL PLANS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0874
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaaqgk.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DESIRE OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REP TO VISIT SYRIA
TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, BTRA, SY
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006